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THE FEDERATION OF AMERICAN SOCIETIES FOR EXPERIMENTAL BIOLOGY

FOR a number of years the members of the Physiological, the Biochemical and the Pharmacological Societies have felt the desirability of a closer cooperation of these and other biological societies, especially as regards the annual scientific meetings. At the meeting in Chicago in 1907 the Physiological Society appointed a committee on policy with instructions to report at the next annual meeting. At the meeting in Baltimore in 1908 the chairman of this committee, Dr. A. P. Mathews, presented a plan for reorganizing all the present biological societies into a general Biological Society. The plan involved a change in policy and in the character of the membership of at least some of the societies, and an extensive venture in the publication of scientific journals. These features were not endorsed by the society, but the general plan of affiliation of all the biological societies was favorably received and Dr. Mathews was appointed delegate from the Physiological Society to confer with delegates from the other biological societies to this end. This committee does not appear to have made any progress.

At the meeting in Cleveland in 1912, the Physiological, Biochemical and Pharmacological Societies appointed committees to propose plans for affiliation. The committee consisted of Drs. Meltzer, Lee and Cannon from the Physiological Society, Drs. Lusk, Gies and Wells from the Biochemical Society and Drs. Sollmann, Loevenhart and Auer, from the Pharmacological Society. This committee submitted the following plan:

1. That the three societies affiliate under the name of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology.

2. That the presidents and secretaries of the three societies constitute the executive committee of the federation.

3. That programs of the annual meetings be printed under one cover, and that the secretaries confer and adjust the papers with the view of the greatest coordination.

4. That a common meeting place of the federation with the anatomists, zoologists and naturalists is desirable.

The annual meeting in Philadelphia, December 28-31, 1913, was arranged by the executive committee of the federation according to the above plan. Those present at the meeting were in substantial agreement that it was a success. At this

meeting the plan of the organization committee was ratified by the three societies and the Society for Experimental Pathology joined the federation. This brings the total membership of the federation up to about 450.

The distinctive feature of the federation plan is the cooperation and coordination in the essential things, with no interference with the individuality of the societies. This cooperation is certainly desirable between all the biological societies, and we believe the federation plan can and ought to be extended in that direction. We believe it will increase the efficiency of the societies as agencies for the promotion of research and dissemination of truth.

At the first executive meeting of the federation, December 31, 1913, the following declaration on the subject of animal experimentation was unanimously adopted:

1. We, the members of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology—comprising the American Physiological Society, the American Society of Biological Chemists, the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics and the American Society for Experimental Pathology,—in convention assembled, hereby express our accord with the declaration of the recent International Medical Congress and other authoritative medical organizations, in favor of the scientific method designated properly animal experimentation but sometimes vivisection.

2. We point to the remarkable and innumerable achievements by means of animal experimentation in the past in advancing the knowledge of biological laws and devising methods of procedure for the cure of disease and for the prevention of suffering in human beings and lower animals. We emphasize the necessity of animal experimentation in continuing similar beneficent work in the future.

3. We are firmly opposed to cruelty to animals. We heartily support all humane efforts to prevent the wanton infliction of pain. The vast majority of experiments on animals need not be and, in fact, are not accompanied by any pain whatsoever. Under the regulations already in force, which reduce discomfort to the least possible amount and which require the decision of doubtful cases by the responsible laboratory director, the performance of those rare experiments which involve pain is, we believe, justifiable.

4. We regret the widespread lack of informa-

tion regarding the aims, the achievements and procedures of animal experimentation. We deplore the persistent misrepresentation of these aims, achievements and procedures by those who are opposed to this scientific method. We protest against the frequent denunciations of self-sacrificing, high-minded men of science who are devoting their lives to the welfare of mankind in efforts to solve the complicated problems of living beings and their diseases.

Executive Committee of the Federation for the Year 1914.—W. B. Cannon, A. J. Carlson, the Physiological Society; G. Lusk, P. A. Shaffer, the Biochemical Society; T. Sollmann, J. Auer, the Pharmacological Society; R. M. Pearce, G. H. Whipple, the Pathological Society; G. Lusk, *Chairman*; P. A. Shaffer, *Secretary*.

A. J. CARLSON,

Secretary of the Executive Committee, 1913
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO,
January 10, 1914

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF BIOLOGICAL CHEMISTS

THE eighth annual meeting of the American Society of Biological Chemists was held at Philadelphia on December 29, 30, 31, 1913, in affiliation with the American Physiological Society and the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics, as the first meeting of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology. The meetings of the society were well attended and highly successful. The joint meetings, as in past years, were of great interest to the members of all of the societies, and these, together with the cooperation in the arrangement and printing of programs, emphasized the advantages of the closer relations between the societies made permanent by the formation of the federation. The scientific programs are appended.

First Session.—December 29, 9 A.M., at the Jefferson Medical College. Joint session with the American Physiological Society and the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics, as the first session of the federation. Presiding officer, S. J. Meltzer, president of the American Physiological Society and chairman of the federation.

Presidential address, "Theories of Anesthesia," by S. J. Meltzer.

"Phlorhizin Glycosuria before and after Thyroidectomy," by Graham Lusk.

"Studies in Diabetes: (1) The Effect of Different Compounds on Glycogenesis"; (2) "The Mechanism of Antiketogenesis," by A. I. Ringer and E. M. Frankel (by invitation).

"Some Problems of Growth: (a) The Capacity to Grow; (b) The Role of Amino Acids in Growth," by L. B. Mendel and T. B. Osborne.

"Further Studies in the Comparative Biochemistry of Purine Metabolism," by Andrew Hunter.

"Changes in Fats during Absorption," by W. R. Bloor.

"Immunization against the Anti-coagulating Effect of Leech Extract," by Leo Loeb. (By title.)

"Anaphylaxis in the Cat and Opossum," by C. W. Edmunds.

"Vividiffusion; Report on Preliminary Results," by J. J. Abel, L. G. Rowntree and B. B. Turner.

"A Method of Dialyzing Normal Circulating Blood and Some of Its Applications," by C. L. V. Hess (by invitation) and H. McGuigan.

"A Biological Test for Iodine in the Blood," by A. Woelfel and A. L. Tatum (by invitation).

"Further Studies of the Excretion of Acids," by L. G. Henderson and W. W. Palmer (by invitation).

Second Session.—December 29, 2:30 P.M. at the Jefferson Medical College. Presiding officer, President A. B. Macallum.

Presidential address, "The Physics of Secretion and Excretion," by A. B. Macallum.

"The So-called Vegetable Proteoses and their Biological Reactions," by H. G. Wells and T. B. Osborne.

"Some Anaphylactic Reactions," by H. C. Bradley.

"The Mode of Action of Soy Bean Urease," by D. D. Van Slyke and Glen E. Cullen (by invitation).

"Glycol Aldehyde in Phlorhizinized Dogs," by R. T. Woodyatt. (By title.)

"Triresol as a Substitute for Toluene in Enzyme Work," by P. A. Kober and S. S. Graves (by invitation).

"A Study of the Metabolism in Osteitis Deformans," by J. C. DaCosta, E. H. Funk, Olaf Bergeim (by invitation) and P. B. Hawk.

"Metabolism in Diabetes Insipidus," by S. Bookman. (By title.)

"Some Metabolic Effects of Bathing in the Great Salt Lake," by H. I. Mattill (by invitation) and H. A. Mattill. (By title.)

"Absorption of Antitoxin from Solutions Containing Different Percentages of Protein,"¹ by W. H. Park, E. J. Banzhaf and L. W. Famulener.

Third Session.—December 30, 9 A.M., at the University of Pennsylvania. Presiding officer, President A. B. Macallum.

"The Carbohydrate Tolerance of Feeble-minded Children, especially of the Mongolian Type," by A. W. Peters and M. E. Turnbull (by invitation).

¹ Transferred from the Pharmacological Society.